

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING IOWA SAFE
SCHOOLS' SECOND ANNUAL
PRIDE CAMP

HON. ABBY FINKENAUER

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Ms. FINKENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to join in celebrating the second annual Pride Camp at Iowa Safe Schools and to congratulate everyone involved in making this incredible resource for LGBTQ youth in our state a reality. This week-long program is designed for LGBTQ youth to have an opportunity to learn, grow, and simply have fun in a safe and supportive environment.

I was a page in Iowa's State House when the "Iowa Safe Schools Law"—the Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Act of 2007—was passed. It was the result of years of tireless work from advocates and legislators, including many of the Iowans who have dedicated themselves to Pride Camp. I am honored to be a voice for LGBTQ Iowans of all ages in Congress.

I applaud Iowa Safe Schools for the inspiring work that it does in our communities, year-round, to create a nurturing environment for LGBTQ youth, by providing critical resources and training for students, educators, parents, and young allies.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 40TH
WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF DO-
LORES AND WILL GRESHAM

HON. MARK E. GREEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Dolores and Will Gresham of Somerville, Tennessee on the very special occasion of their 40th wedding anniversary.

Dolores and Will were married on August 2, 1969. Together, their lives have been marked by service to their community, with both retiring from the United States Marine Corps with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During her military service, Dolores completed USMC Amphibious Warfare School, USMC Command and Staff College, and an MS in Industrial Management at George Washington University before she and Will returned to a cattle farm in West Tennessee where they currently live. Dolores has served in the Tennessee State Senate since 2008.

In addition to their service, their marriage of forty faithful years embodies the values of Tennessee which have and will keep our state and our nation strong. There is no doubt that they have lived an All-American life with their family—raising Hereford cattle on their farm, investing in their neighbors, and holding fast to their strong values and shared faith, giving us

all an ideal to which we can aspire. May their commitment grow even stronger as they love, cherish, and honor one another for many years to come.

Madam Speaker, I commend this great couple on their 40th year of marriage. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating them on this momentous occasion.

PERYL KELLEY SCHAAF

HON. SCOTT R. TIPTON

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Mr. TIPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a pioneer and a standout citizen of Durango, Colorado, Peryl Schaaf. Peryl began her life as a homesteader in southwest Colorado and eventually served as one of the highest officer positions at the Bank of Durango.

Peryl is the daughter of two homesteading families in Durango, CO. She eloped and married her husband, Ernie Schaaf, at the age of fifteen, on August 20, 1939. The couple had four children, nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Her family was full of strong hardworking women including her Aunt, Olga Little, a local mining legend and a trail-blazer.

Peryl was no stranger to hard work herself. She started working at the young age of six. She was the family homemaker while her mother taught at remote one room school houses. She worked as a gas pump attendant at her father's station during World War II, and years later, started a job at the Bank of Durango as a teller. Despite being paid only half of what her male counterparts made, her hard work did not go unnoticed by her colleagues or management and she eventually rose through the ranks to serve as the Vice President of the bank.

Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to honor Peryl. As a renowned storyteller in her community, Peryl will continue to highlight her remarkable life through the Durango Native Stories—a reoccurring public series offering first-hand recollections of personal stories from Durango locals. Her life of hard work, perseverance and achievement is worthy of commendation and I am proud to honor her legacy.

RECOGNIZING BRUCE FLAHERTY

HON. GRACE MENG

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Ms. MENG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and hold up for distinction the tireless work of Mr. Bruce Flaherty, a Vietnam veteran and my constituent from Flushing, Queens.

Since 2004, Mr. Flaherty has dedicated himself to see that a flag is flown over the Capitol for each of the men in his infantry who were killed in Vietnam. At the completion of this mission this year, he flew a total of 289 American flags to honor the service and sacrifice of his fellow servicemen. Mr. Flaherty located and identified 103 families of those killed in the Vietnam War and has presented each of them with our nation's flag and official certificate. His commitment over the decades is heartfelt, exemplary, and admirable.

Born and raised in Queens, Mr. Flaherty served in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969 in the 4th Battalion, 3rd Infantry Regiment (Old Guard). He was honorably discharged from the Army and received the Purple Heart Award.

After returning to the United States, Mr. Flaherty worked at the New York Telephone Company for 32 years. He worked on veterans issues with the Americal Division Veterans Association, helping veterans and their families locate information in the National Archive to assist in their claims for awards and benefits. Mr. Flaherty also volunteered on a variety of task forces, including Hurricane Gloria in 1985 and Ground Zero in 2001.

Mr. Flaherty has dedicated countless hours to help us remember those who lost their lives when fighting for our country. His work has also reassured families that the sacrifices their loved ones made for our country are remembered and that their memories live on.

I extend my sincere gratitude to Mr. Flaherty for all he has done, and continues to do, to honor those who valiantly fought and died for our freedom. His work is greatly appreciated, and I am honored to have him as my constituent.

Madam Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the selfless work and remarkable achievements of Mr. Bruce Flaherty. His dedication to honoring his fellow soldiers is truly commendable.

HONORING BILL SOMERVILLE

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the work of Bill Somerville, an extraordinary philanthropist, grant-maker, advisor, and a generous, creative, and devoted advocate for those in need.

Bill Somerville grew up in Berkeley, California, and later attended the University of California. He served for 17 years as Executive Director of the pioneering and highly regarded Peninsula Community Foundation and is a nationally recognized expert on creative grant-making, having advised more than 400 community foundations in the United States, Canada, and abroad on effective operations and grantmaking. He has taught courses on

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philanthropy at Stanford University, UC Berkeley's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and Laney Community College, in Oakland, California. Bill was honored with the 2004 Gerbode Fellowship Award in recognition of outstanding achievement as a nonprofit executive and is a founding member of the National Advisory Board of the Haas Center for Public Service at Stanford University. He has also been an advisor to the Dean of the UC Berkeley School of Social Welfare and serves as an advisor to the Peery Family Foundation and the Junior League of Palo Alto.

Bill is the author, with Fred Setterberg, of *Grassroots Philanthropy: Field Notes of a Maverick Grantmaker*, a guide to creative grantmaking. In it, according to the *Financial Times*, May 2008, "Somerville describes in engaging prose how to be an effective philanthropist. With no agenda other than his need to set things right in the world, he lays out a series of principles that can be adopted by both endowed national foundations and those with lesser means, providing they have an urge to use their wealth to improve the world."

Bill Somerville's career as a maverick grantmaker spans 50 years in nonprofit work. In 1990, he founded *Philanthropic Ventures Foundation (PVF)* which specializes in creative giving programs customized to donors' interests. Under his stewardship, PVF has distinguished itself as a leader in "venture philanthropy," a term coined by Somerville to describe PVF's quick-response, high-impact grant mode, including immediate response grants and paperless giving.

Larry Purcell, the highly respected founder of the Catholic Worker House in Redwood City, California, reports that more than 40 years ago he and Bill Somerville became teamsters for the poor by picking up free fresh produce from the South San Francisco Produce Terminal. The Catholic Worker House has continued to distribute thousands of pounds of produce each week, using three 15,000-pound trucks acquired through Bill Somerville's generosity and that of *Philanthropic Ventures*. A decade ago, Bill Somerville and *Philanthropic Ventures Foundation* gave the Catholic Worker House seed money to purchase a two-bedroom house in Redwood City for day laborers. In 2018 Bill Somerville and *Philanthropic Ventures Foundation* provided seed money for Catholic Workers to buy a home in Oakland to house men coming out of San Quentin State Prison. Meanwhile, Catholic Workers in Redwood City, San Bruno, San Jose, and Santa Maria, California, have been feeding, clothing, sheltering, and educating the very poor by the thousands. Bill Somerville and *Philanthropic Ventures Foundation* have supported each of those Catholic Worker Houses in magnificent ways. According to Purcell, Bill Somerville is great, humble, dedicated, and serves the poor with deep, deep kindness.

In *Grassroots Philanthropy* Bill said "Philanthropy is a fascinating pursuit. It's the stuff of dreams made practical, a lever that can move the world. Philanthropy is a subject about which I remain unequivocally and unapologetically passionate."

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the extraordinary work of an extraordinary man, Bill Somerville, and thanking him for his unique leadership. He has strengthened our communities and bettered our nation through his vi-

sion, passion, and integrity, and he stands as a role model of what a citizen can do to create transformative change in the lives of so many.

RECOGNIZING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN & HI TECH

HON. SUSAN W. BROOKS

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the Indiana based nonprofit, *Women & Hi Tech*. Founded in 1999, the organization seeks to promote the participation of women in science and technology fields, and to ensure that opportunities in STEM jobs are equally inclusive for all. The organization has demonstrated consistent leadership in our community and helped open doors for many women. The people of the Fifth Congressional District are grateful for *Women & Hi Tech*, and it is my pleasure to congratulate the organization in celebration of this special occasion.

In 1999, two women leaders in our community, Joyce Gustafson, a scientist working for Eli Lilly, and Georgia Miller, an academic at Indiana University, discovered that there were few women like themselves working in high tech jobs in Indiana. Together, they sought to create an organization that would fill the gaps they saw in women leaders in the Indianapolis area. Their initial launch saw much support from the community, including many professionals in a wide variety of industries. The first Board of Directors of *Women & Hi Tech* included Jennifer Sander, Donna Gastevich, Jamie Eicher, Lisa Robertson, Jennifer Scheerer, Sue Ream, Suzanne Nutter, Cindy Royer, and Julie Nahvi. Other significant contributions to *Women & Hi Tech* in its infancy were provided by Susan E. Ziel, Esq., a female attorney who drafted and filed the organization's incorporation documents, and other women and men who have served on the organization's all-volunteer Board of Directors over the years.

With a mission to make careers in STEM equally inclusive to all, *Women & Hi Tech* has grown its membership to nearly 2,000 professionals and students. Their focus is broad. Some programs support girls as young as kindergarten, while others support women in academic careers and on to their professional lives. Programs like *Passport to Hi-Tech* and *Ignite Your Superpower (IYS)* teach young girls about the wide variety of opportunities available to them in science and technology fields, while simultaneously connecting them with leaders already working in those fields. Other programs including *OperationAll*, *Executive Women's Forums* and the *Leading Light Awards* focus on working professionals, educating and empowering them to achieve higher in their careers. They also hold seasonal networking events, which are held at notable locations around Indiana like the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and serve to reinforce their already robust series of education and empowerment programs.

Women & Hi Tech continues to invest into the future of our community through their efforts to build lasting partnerships with local businesses. These partnerships give the organization a unique ability to support women in

a wide variety of industries, and for a wide variety of purposes. For example, as part of their #WHT20for20 campaign, *Women & Hi Tech* will be donating over \$30,000 in scholarships and grants to Indiana women and girls pursuing STEM. Directed primarily at women pursuing academic goals, these funds open doors and provide opportunities that are of immense value. It is programs like this that allow the organization to attract a large number of professionals and students, from across many sectors of our economy, to its ranks.

Women & Hi Tech has done, and continues to do, great things for the people of Indiana. Under the leadership of President Angela Freeman, I am confident that the organization will continue growing and succeeding. Many of the most influential leaders in our community give their time to help this organization succeed, and it is my great pleasure to congratulate *Women & Hi Tech* on 20 years of service. I commend them on their continuing mission of empowerment of women leaders in our community, and I wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE NORTHEAST WISCONSIN COUNTY VETERAN SERVICE OFFICERS

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 2, 2019

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work, dedication, and outstanding service our County Veteran Service Officers provide in assisting veterans in Northeast Wisconsin.

County Veteran Service Officers are self-appointed, concerned veterans who take it upon themselves to aid and assist fellow veterans and survivors with benefits and resources. The first CVSO in Wisconsin was appointed in 1932. In 1935, the Wisconsin CVSO Association was established, and in 1946, Wisconsin passed legislation requiring each county to hire a CVSO who served in the Armed Forces.

For nearly 90 years, Wisconsin CVSOs have led the way in connecting veterans and their families with benefit programs. CVSOs work hard to provide caring counseling, assistance, and advocacy for veterans in need.

I am incredibly proud of the work our CVSOs from Brown, Calumet, Door, Kewaunee, Marinette, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, and Winnebago counties, and our Tribal Veteran Service Officers from the Oneida Nation, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin, Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians and Ho-Chunk Nation provide for Northeast Wisconsin. These officers and their staff are key to the success of veterans who look for assistance as they transition to civilian life.

I am proud to have such quality County Veteran Service Officers and Tribal Veteran Service Officers in my district. The task of being a CVSO is not always easy. These officers are veterans who served our nation, returned home, and continue their service in our communities. These men and women truly demonstrate what it means to engage in selfless service.